Toll tax collection centres on G.T. Road

1834. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threre are three toll-tax collection centres at Doraha, Shambhu and Karnal on GT Road from Delhi to Amritsar;

(b) if so, the annual collection from these centres, barrier-wise, and how is it spent;

(c) Government's policy of collecting toll-tax;

(d) whether it is also a fact that toll-tax charged from a person travelling two Kms. is same as charged from a person travelling 100 Kms; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take to reduce the toll-tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. These are three users fee (toll) collection centres (plazas) at Karnal, Shambu and Doraha on Panipat-Jalandhar Section of NH-1 from Km. 96.000 to Km. 372.800.

(b) Table showing annual collection of users fee from the above mentioned plazas is given in the Statement (See below). Amount collected is utilized for (i) meeting expenditure on maintenance of highways and providing user services like ambulances, patrol vehicles, cranes and collection of user fee and (ii) meeting 20% of debt service obligation in respect of debts from multilateral funding agencies.

(c) As per the policy of the Government, any section of National Highway/permanent bridge/temporary bridge notified under the National Highways (Collection of fees by any person for the use of section of National Highways/Permanent Bridge/Temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules 1997, the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Project) Rules, 1997 are to be tolled as per the National Highways (Rate of Fee) Rules, 1997.

(d) to (e) Fee is being collected under Open System, whereby ever

user crossing the plaza is required to pay for the length being tolled. Due to lack of access controlled section and considering large number of entries and exits from the highways, it is not practically possible to collect fee under Closed System wherein the fee is charged for the distance travelled. However, there are relaxations for frequent and local users.

Statement

Annual Collection of user fee (toll)

SI. No.	Name of Collector	user fee (toll) cer itres	Amount of user fee Collection (year wise) (Rs. in Crore)		
			June'02-Mar'03	Ap 03-Mar'04	Apr'04-Feb'05.
1.	Karnal		38.92	49.23	48.13
2.	Shambu		14.45	17.31	17.35
3.	Doraha		14.07	23.02	23.22

Construction work on NH-8

1835. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pieased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Express Highway construction work on NH-8 is very slow and has caused loss of hundreds of lives in road accident;

(b) the number of deaths in road accident in between Rao Tularam Marg to Rajiv Chowk during last two years; and

(c) the precautions that have been taken by Government in this regard and to finish the work early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (c) The slight delay in the project is due to land acquisition involved at three locations. All out efforts are being made to get the required land transferred. Progress of work is expected to improve after the acquisition of land. Adequate safety measures have been provided for protection of traffic. Concessionaire is being also vigorously pursued to complete the stretch where the fronts are already available.

(b) No such records has been kept with the department about the accidents which details are with the State Government agencies, but all